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SUBJECT General Keegan/Admiral Turner

STEVE BOSH: Within the US intelligence community there is little dispute about the accuracy of American reports concerning the missile attack. But, as Drew Scott reports, there is conflict about what that information may have disclosed concerning our intelligence gathering capabilities.

SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE SHULTZ: A Soviet pilot reported visual contact with the aircraft at 18:12 hours. The Soviet plane was, we know, in constant contact with its ground control.

DREW SCOTT: When Secretary of State Shultz spoke these words, many in the intelligence community recoiled in horror that such precise details obtained through a huge allied network of secret electronic intelligence may have been compromised. One of those appalled by what he believes to be a breach of security is former CIA Director Adm. Stansfield Turner.

STANSFIELD TURNER: He devoted more than I've ever heard an official of the government say about this kind of intelligence collection technique.

SCOTT: The National Security Agency and the CIA have a network of 4120 intercept stations around the globe. The Kamchatka Peninsula is of special interest to Japan and the US because it's the home of the Soviets' Pacific nuclear submarine fleet, and Soviet missile test firings are conducted there on a regular basis. Turner says the area is bristling with electronic ears and perhaps now the Soviets have a deepened understanding of our intelligence process.

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TURNER: He gave the Soviets specific information about what our capabilities were in certain areas, or in that area of the world, but on certain types of intelligence collection. That's a help to the Soviets. But more than that, my concern is that it begins an unraveling of this whole process.

SCOTT: But the former chief of US Air Force intelligence, Gen. George Keegan, says he disagrees with Turner, that this intelligence information should be used to publicly embarrass the Soviets.

GEN. GEORGE KEEGAN: And I think, in the case of Secretary of State Shultz, he acted with great candor and great courage and made the proper public use of intelligence for a change instead of concealing from the public.

SCOTT: Adm. Turner and Gen. Keegan do agree on one thing. They say despite world-wide condemnation, the Soviets will never provide a full accounting of the shooting nor will they make an apology. They say the Kremlin is convinced it can ride out the storm just like it did in Poland and Afghanistan.

Drew Scott, Independent Network News, Washington.